IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA SOUTHERN DIVISION

BOBBY SINGLETON, et al.,	
Plaintiffs,)	No.: 2:21-cv-01291-AMM
WES ALLEN, et al.	
Defendants.)	
EVAN MILLIGAN, et al.,	
Plaintiffs,)	No.: 2:21-cv-01530-AMM
WES ALLEN, et al.	
Defendants.)	
MARCUS CASTER, et al.,	
Plaintiffs,)	No.: 2:21-cv-01536-AMM
WES ALLEN, et al.	
Defendants.)	

SINGLETON PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR CLARIFICATION

The Defendants have asked the Court to clarify its order regarding the scope of the upcoming hearing in *Caster* and *Milligan*, and the Court has directed all Plaintiffs to respond. Because the *Singleton* Plaintiffs have not asserted a claim

under the Voting Rights Act, they take no position on the scope of evidence the parties should be permitted to offer during the *Caster* and *Milligan* hearing.

The Singleton Plaintiffs note that the Defendants' motion (incorrectly) contends that the 2023 Plan is lawful because it remedies "the cracking at the heart of" the Caster and Milligan Plaintiffs' challenge to the 2021 Plan." Doc. No. 156 at 4–5 (internal quotation marks omitted). To that end, the Defendants propose to show that the 2023 Plan "respect[s] majority-Black communities of interest like the Black Belt and Montgomery County, while also maintaining longstanding communities of interest in the Gulf and Wiregrass." Id. at 5 (citations and internal quotation marks omitted). On that score, the Singleton Plaintiffs' proposed plans, which Senators Singleton and Smitherman submitted but the Legislature rejected, perform materially better than the 2023 Plan. The 2023 Plan divides the eighteen core Black Belt counties evenly between Districts 2 and 7, while Senator Singleton's plan keeps sixteen of the eighteen counties in a single district. Ex. 1. Moreover, the Singleton plan does not split Jefferson County - arguably the most important Alabama community of interest. Assuming arguendo that Montgomery County, the Gulf, and the Wiregrass are communities of interest, the Singleton Plan keeps each of these three communities of interest within single districts as well. And unlike the 2023 Plan, it uses race-neutral lines and complies with the Voting Rights Act by providing two opportunity districts. Doc. No. 147 at 14–18. Therefore, the Singleton Plan, and

not the 2023 Plan, complies with the Supreme Court's directive in *Cooper v. Harris*, 581 U.S. 285 (2017), that race-based district lines are impermissible unless the legislature or court cannot avoid a violation of Section 2 without them. *Id.* at 17–18. The Singleton Plaintiffs are prepared to support their position with evidence at the scheduled hearing on the merits of their claim that the 2023 Plan is an unconstitutional racial gerrymander.

Dated: August 4, 2023 Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Henry C. Quillen

Henry C. Quillen (admitted *pro hac vice*)
WHATLEY KALLAS, LLP
159 Middle Street, Suite 2C
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Tel: (603) 294-1591 Fax: (800) 922-4851

Email: hquillen@whatleykallas.com

Joe R. Whatley, Jr.
W. Tucker Brown
WHATLEY KALLAS, LLP
2001 Park Place North
1000 Park Place Tower
Birmingham, AL 35203

Tel: (205) 488-1200 Fax: (800) 922-4851

Email: jwhatley@whatleykallas.com tbrown@whatleykallas.com

/s/ James Uriah Blacksher

James Uriah Blacksher 825 Linwood Road Birmingham, AL 35222

Tel: (205) 612-3752

Fax: (866) 845-4395

Email: jublacksher@gmail.com

Myron Cordell Penn PENN & SEABORN, LLC 1971 Berry Chase Place Montgomery, AL 36117

Tel: (334) 219-9771

Email: myronpenn28@hotmail.com

Diandra "Fu" Debrosse Zimmermann Eli Hare DICELLO LEVITT GUTZLER 420 20th Street North, Suite 2525 Birmingham, AL 35203

Tel.: (205) 855.5700

Email: <u>fu@dicellolevitt.com</u> <u>ehare@dicellolevitt.com</u>

U.W. Clemon U.W. Clemon, LLC Renasant Bank Building 2001 Park Place North, Tenth Floor Birmingham, AL 35203

Tel.: (205) 506-4524 Fax: (205) 538-5500

Email: <u>uwclemon1@gmail.com</u>

Edward Still 2501 Cobblestone Way Birmingham, AL 35226

Tel: (205) 335-9652 Fax: (205) 320-2882

Email: edwardstill@gmail.com

Counsel for Singleton Plaintiffs